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Michigan Works! Agencies continue outstanding service for job seekers



Clifford Jackson found himself in strange territory when he retired from the Air Force after serving 20 years as a project manager. Being stationed all over the world was easy. Now he had to face the daunting task of finding a civilian job here at home.

Clifford knew he had desirable and marketable skills to offer an employer. He needed a job but since the Air Force was the only job he ever had, he lacked experience developing and writing a stellar resume. A friend told him about assistance offered through Michigan Works! Agencies in preparing for and finding employment. Clifford visited his local Michigan Works! Agency and was directed to the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP) on site.

Clifford then began working with Rebecca Lee on how to write a winning resume, how to interview and how to secure a job.

“At first this process seemed pointless to me,” said Clifford. “I thought all I had to do was show an employer my DD214 and they would see my skills, education and awards and if they wanted me, they would hire me. However, Rebecca quickly showed me that in today’s world, that process just doesn’t work. There is stiff competition for jobs out in the work place and if I wanted to secure a job, I needed to listen to her, follow her directions and work with her to get the advantage over other people looking for work.

“This process was difficult for me. She kept talking about resumes, cover letters, and professional attire, and how to interview. At times I wanted to scream, but she was so confident in what she was doing that I knew if I trusted her I would get the job I needed.”

After spending time at Michigan Works! and with Rebecca, Clifford honed his interviewing skills and developed a polished resume. As a result, he landed a position as the Director of Services with Securitas Security Guard Company where he works on scheduling assignments and ensuring that staff is on location as directed.

Michigan DVOP Specialists like Rebecca can be found throughout the State of Michigan at many of the Michigan Works! Agencies. These skilled individuals are dedicated to helping veterans like Clifford land a rewarding civilian job.

Rebecca says she is very excited about Clifford’s new career.

“I am pretty confident in the career services that I provide to my clients. I have been doing this line of work for a very long time and I offer a win-win combination of excellent writing skills along with professional networking that helps put individuals back to work,” Rebecca said. “The most difficult part is getting people to listen and follow my lead.”